MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI *(Nominated)*: May I know from the honourable member some approximate date when it is likely to be extended?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: No approximate date can be given. It all depends upon the availability of materials.

Extension of telephone line to Thodupuzha.

435. * MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what steps have been taken to extend the telephone line to Thodupuzha; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any idea of the extent of trouble and inconvenience the local people including officials are subjected to on account of its absence?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) An estimate for the extension of telephone facilities is under the consideration of Government. The work cannot be taken up for want of line materials and phones. This extension is being included in the five year programme of extensions being planned by Government and the work will be arranged depending on the availability of materials and instruments.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: May I know from the honourable member whether the estimate referred to in answer (a) is the one which has already been taken or whether it is in contemplation only?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: The estimate has already been submitted to Government.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know from the honourable member whether in towns with telephone connections, public offices are given connection?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: I do not catch the question.

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member repeat the question?

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: In towns supplied with telephone connection, have all the important Government offices been given connection?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Not in all places. In some places they have only public call offices, and Government offices have not been connected. When the need arises, exchanges will be installed and the Government offices connected with the exchange.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know from the honourable member whether it will not be more convenient for the public as well as the departments to have connection in the important offices?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: It certainly will be.

MR. V. I. IDICULA (*Pathanamthitta*): May I know from the honourable member whether the Government have any idea of extending the telephone line in Pathanamthitta?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Extention of telephone connection to Pathanamthitta is included in a five-year programme which is under preparation.

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